A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of October 2020 as "Civic Education Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is where the constitutional government for the United States of America began 233 years ago; and

WHEREAS, We, the American people, must heed President Abraham Lincoln's charge to ensure "that government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth"; and

WHEREAS, To maintain a government by and for the people, the United States needs a citizenry that understands the history and foundation of our representative democracy, the role of strong institutions in facilitating effective collective decisionmaking and the essential nature of active community participation in our system of self-governance; and
WHEREAS, Only 39% of Americans can name the three branches of our national government; and

WHEREAS, The highest national voter turnout in an election since 1970 was just 61.6% of the voting eligible population; and

WHEREAS, On the most recent national civic knowledge test, only 24% of eighth grade students scored at or above the proficient level; and

WHEREAS, Effective civic education is linked to higher voter turnout, increased collaborative skills and lower dropout rate, among many other benefits; and

WHEREAS, Schools have the capacity to reach nearly every young person in the country and are therefore essential in establishing and maintaining a robust culture of civic engagement for future generations of Americans; and

WHEREAS, Act 35 of 2018 requires each school entity to administer at least once to students in grades 7 through 12 an assessment of United States history, government and civics, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, All Pennsylvanians could benefit from civic education to encourage greater engagement and involvement in the American political process; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of October 2020 as "Civic Education Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all residents of this Commonwealth to celebrate efforts to educate and inform American citizens about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and the importance of civic engagement.